Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Dr. Robert Burns will retire on June 30, 2008, culminating 38 years of distinguished and faithful service to South Dakota State University and to the people of South Dakota; and,

Whereas, Dr. Burns was named as a Distinguished Professor of Political Science, an honor and recognition reserved for a very select few and was named Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. He has received Teacher of the Year designation five times from the College of Arts and Sciences at South Dakota State University; and,

Whereas, Dr. Burns provided South Dakota State University with exemplary leadership as dean of the Honors College, head of the History and Political Science Department, chairman of the Academic Senate, administrative associate in the Office of the President, chairman of the Committee on Academic Diversity and Pluralism, adviser to the Briggs Scholars, and chairman of the General Education Core Curriculum Committee, among many administrative and service roles; and,

Whereas, Dr. Burns has served as campus coordinator for the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Program, Marshall Scholarship Program, South Dakota Legislative Intern Program, and AASCU American Democracy Project; and,

Whereas, Dr. Burns, as the political science advisor at SDSU in the years I attempted to learn there, is directly responsible for my career path, the current position I hold in state government and, therefore, any mistakes I have made in that position; and,

Whereas, Dr. Burns has served the Brookings community and the state of South Dakota through three terms as a past president and member of the Brookings School Board, as a former member and past president of the Brookings Library Board, as co-chairman of Governor's Citizens' Task Force on Education, as a co-vice chairman of the South Dakota Constitutional Revision Commission, and as chairman of Leadership Brookings; and,

Whereas, Dr. Burns has developed and maintained mentoring relationships with hundreds of students and forged strong associations nationwide during his 38 years at South Dakota State University and will be honored on June 28, 2008, by his colleagues, family, and friends:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim June 30, 2008, as

DR. ROBERT BURNS DAY

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Eleventh Day of June in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eight.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Teresa J. Bray, Deputy
Chris Nelson, Secretary of State